

Appl. No. 10/661,736
Amdt. Dated Aug. 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A backlight system comprising:

a light guide plate defining a plurality of side faces, opposite bottom and exit faces, and a plurality of incident faces, said side faces commonly defining a periphery of said light guide plate, said incident faces being [[at]] respectively in each of indented corners of said light guide plate; and

a plurality of point light sources essentially uniformly dispersed along said periphery and located at said corners, wherein most portions of each of said light sources are located within an area of the corresponding indented corner which is defined by said incident face and two neighboring side faces of said light guide plate, and said point light sources are commonly directing directed toward a center region of said light guide plate.

Claims 11-17 (canceled)

REMARKS

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By the above amendments, applicant has canceled claims 1-9 and 13-17 without prejudice. Claim 10, as amended, remains pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita (US 6,309,079 B1).

By the above amendment, applicant has canceled claim 17 without prejudice. The subject matter of claim 17 has been incorporated into claim 10, in such as way as to more clearly express the claimed subject matter. In response to the rejection, applicant submits that amended claim 10 is allowable over Yamashita and all of the other cited references, as follows:

Amended claim 10 recites in part:

“said incident faces being respectively in each of indented corners of said light guide plate...wherein most portions of each of said light sources are located within an area of the corresponding indented corner which is defined by said incident face and two neighboring side faces...”

Applicant submits that Yamashita does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest the invention as currently recited in amended claim 10.

Yamashita does disclose an illumination system, in which four light sources 102 are positioned in the vicinity of four corners of the display surface of the non-luminescent display device 101 and outside of the display area of the non-luminescent display device 101, so that no parts of the light sources 102 cover the display area (column 12, lines 15-20, and

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Figs. 10 and 13). However, Yamashita does not disclose or suggest a backlight system in which "...incident faces [are] respectively in each of indented corners of said light guide plate...and most portions of each of said light sources are located within an area of the corresponding indented corner which is defined by said incident face and two neighboring side faces..." Accordingly, these plural differences indicate that Yamashita fails to teach or suggest the backlight system as recited in amended claim 10.

Examiner states that Yamashita discloses "in order for light to enter the light guide [plate], incident surface are disposed therein, whether it be the corners themselves or the surface that form the corners" (para. 8 on p.7 of the Office action). Nevertheless, Yamashita clearly does not disclose, nor does it suggest, a backlight system in which "...incident faces [are] respectively in each of indented corners of said light guide plate..." This single difference on its own indicates that Yamashita fails to teach or suggest the backlight system as recited in amended claim 10.

In summary, there is nothing in the cited reference that teaches or suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art that they might or should provide the backlight system of amended claim 10. Furthermore, the backlight system as recited in amended claim 10 produces new and unexpected results. That is, the backlight system emits light with a high degree of uniformity.

Accordingly, amended claim 10 is submitted to be novel, unobvious and patentable over Yamashita under both s.102(b) and s.103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of amended claim 10 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

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Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita (US 6,309,079 B1) in view of Akahane (US 5,931,555).

Claims 1-9 have been canceled without prejudice, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita.

Claims 13-14 have been canceled without prejudice, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Toyoda (US 6,582,095 B2).

Claims 15 has been canceled without prejudice, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita in view of Akahane.

Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

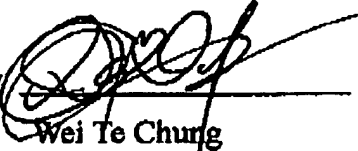
Respectfully submitted,

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